

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Before paragraph [0001] please add the subtitle **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The field invention relates to a connection element for attaching planiform or dish-shaped components to supporting structures, preferably for for example, attaching trim parts, to a structure of an aircraft.

Before paragraph [0002] please add the subtitle **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] In order to fasten trim parts planiform or dish shaped components to a supporting structure of an aircraft, normally a large number of connection elements are used. Such connection elements have to meet a host of boundary conditions that conventional fastening elements, known from prior art, such as screws, clamps and rivets are unable to meet. Without establishing a ranking, such boundary conditions include: sound insulation and thermal insulation; light weight of the connection elements; security against unintended disconnection, even during extreme loads, for example as a result of a fire associated with an accident; easy positioning even in the case of difficult installation conditions; and little expenditure of time and tools for connecting and disconnecting, i.e. for attaching and removing the connection elements.

Before paragraph [0003] please add the subtitle **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] It is [[an]] one object of the present invention to create a connection element as described above, which connection element meets the above-mentioned demands,

wherein at the same time the construction expenditure and thus the production costs of such a connection element are kept within reason.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] According to ~~an exemplary embodiment~~ one example of the invention, a connection element is provided having ~~having~~ a retainer or holder on the a component, on which retainer an insertion ~~trunnion~~ pin is held ~~by a holder such that it is~~ so as to be adjustable to a limited extent for example, at least in a Z-translational direction at least vertically (Z-direction R_z) in relation to the a component surface and matches ~~mates~~ a receiver coupled to ~~on~~ the structure, ~~which~~ where the receiver is ~~made from~~ of an elastically deformable soft material with a first recess, the first recess being contoured for receiving a trunnion portion of the insertion pin, the insertion trunnion, which recess being contoured for receiving the trunnion portion of the insertion pin providing matches the contour of the insertion trunnion in such a way, ~~having positive fit, that said insertion trunnion establishes a snap connection between the receiver and the insertion pin with the receiver,~~ wherein the receiver ~~on the structure~~ comprises includes a support flange, by means of which ~~the~~ support flange being capable of coupling with the retainer mounted on the structure such that the ~~said~~ receiver rests flat against [[a]] the retainer on the structure, and is adjustably held and attachable in [[the]] ~~an~~ XY plane that is arranged substantially ~~perpendicularly~~ perpendicular in relation to the Z-translational direction ~~of connection (R_z)~~.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] With the above connection element, the requirements listed above ~~can~~ may be met. The design of the connection as a snap connection may ensure that no special tools are required.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The adjustability in the ~~Z-direction~~ Z-translational direction on the component, and in the XY-direction on the structure ~~makes it possible to~~ may compensate for tolerances between the planiform or dish-shaped components to be attached on the one hand,

and the supporting structure of an aircraft on the other hand, wherein such compensation or the corresponding adjustment ~~can~~ may take place directly when the connection is manually established. In one example, a component is a trim part for an aircraft. The selection of materials ensures that the entire connection element is comparatively light in weight while providing good thermal insulation, thus meeting a central requirement in aircraft engineering.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] In a ~~preferred exemplary embodiment~~ another example of the connection element, ~~according to the invention~~ the insertion ~~trunnion~~ or pin is arranged such that when it snaps into the ~~attachment position~~ recess of the receiver, it activates mechanical or hydraulic ~~devices~~ mechanism that firmly clamp the support flange ~~[[in]]~~ within the retainer mounted on the structure. As a result of this arrangement, the ~~attachment position~~ recess in the XY-plane, which may serve as an end attachment position and may be once found, is determined as the final attachment position at the same time as the insertion ~~trunnion~~ pin snaps into place. Thus, securing the desired position of the retainer on the structure on the one hand, and attaching the insertion ~~trunnion~~ pin on the component on the other hand, ~~[[do]]~~ does not occur in steps but instead concurrently.

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] In a further ~~exemplary embodiment~~ example of the connection element, ~~according to the invention~~ of the receiver comprises two recesses for the insertion pin ~~trunnion~~, which recesses are spaced apart from each other in the ~~Z-direction~~ Z-translational direction. This arrangement may have an advantage in that first, the insertion ~~trunnion~~ can ~~pin~~ may be inserted into the first of the two recesses; in that in this first position, positioning of the retainer on the structure ~~can~~ may be carried out by installing personnel; and in that the second recess is contoured for receiving a trunnion portion of the insertion pin. The second recess may be disposed at a distance from the first recess in the Z-translational direction. ~~attachment position is attained by precise fitting final attachment by snap-in into the second recess.~~

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] A further exemplary embodiment example of a connection element according to the invention allows the adjustability of the insertion trunnion pin in the Z-direction Z-translational direction being achieved by means of a screw thread. As a result of this, the retaining force acting onto the component to be attached ~~can~~ may be adjusted within certain limits. The screw thread ~~should~~ may preferably be arranged between the retainer on the component and an anchorage part which may be coupled to the insertion pin. ~~of the insertion trunnion~~.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] A further example exemplary embodiment, in which the insertion trunnion pin is ~~held in~~ coupled with the anchorage part by means of a ball joint, provides ease of positioning of the retainer on the structure.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Finally, a further example exemplary embodiment should be pointed out. The receiver ~~may include anchorages comprises anchorages on the support flange~~, through which anchorages, a U-shaped ~~securing~~ clamp ~~can~~ may be inserted into the anchorage body of the receiver, such that the trunnion portion of the insertion pin is capable of being secured in the first recess. ~~wherein the~~ The spacing of the U-limbs matches the diameter of the base of the insertion trunnion such that it is not possible to pull the insertion trunnion out while the securing clamp is in place. Such arrangement of the connection element ensures the fail-safe behaviour of the connection element in that, even if ~~the body of the receiver~~ on the structure has been destroyed by excessive forces or excessive temperature, e.g. as a result of a fire, the connection between the component and the structure ~~cannot~~ may not become fully undone. In the case of an aircraft, this is of great importance because danger to the passengers must be avoided under any circumstances, for example, danger in the passenger compartment as a result of parts that come undone due to unforeseen damage to the connection element or elements.

Please delete paragraph [0012].

Before paragraph [0013] please add the subtitle **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] The drawings show the following: describe some examples of a connection element, as shown.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Fig. 1 shows a diagrammatic view of a section of a connection, established with a connection element ~~according to the invention~~, between a component trim part and the structure of an aircraft;

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Fig. 3 shows a simplified partial view, ~~according to line III-III in Fig. 1;~~

Before paragraph [0020] please add the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The examples described and drawings rendered are illustrative and are not to be read as limiting the scope of the invention as it is defined by the appended claims.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The diagrammatic section view according to Fig. 1 shows the attachment of a trim part component 2 to the structure 1 of an aircraft. Attachment takes place by means of a connection element which ~~on the component~~ comprises a retainer 4 in the form of a cylindrical sleeve, which in turn is attached to the surface 21 of the ~~component~~ 2. In one example, the component is a trim part, [[The]] the inside of the retainer 4 on the component comprises a thread 41, into which thread an anchorage part 42, has been screwed. In a ball socket 44 of the anchorage part 42 the spherical head of an insertion ~~trunnion~~ pin 6 is held and secured by means of a trunnion retainer 43. The insertion ~~trunnion~~ or pin 6 can may thus be

swivelled, to a limited extent, in the ball joint created. By screwing the thread 41 in or out, the position of the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 in ~~Z-direction can Z-translational direction may be~~ adjusted. The lower end of the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 thus forms a base 66 that slopes on both ends and that has an increased diameter. In the position as shown in Fig. 1, this base 66 is held (position 2), having positive fit, in the lower of two identically designed recesses 53 of a cylindrical body 56, which ~~component receiver~~ 5 in its entirety is designated the receiver on the structure.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] On the cylindrical body 56 of the ~~component receiver~~ 5, a support flange 51 adjoins downwards, which support flange 51 adjoins over an area in a flat recess 31 of a retainer 3 on the structure and is secured to the retainer 3 on the structure by means of a retaining plate 32. The depth of the flat recess 31 is slightly larger than the depth of the support flange 51. In position 1 as shown in Fig. 1 the receiver 5 on the structure has been firmly clamped over the support flange 51 in the retainer 3 on the structure, which takes place in that a pin 65 at the bottom end of the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 (compare Fig. 5), according to the shown line of application of a force K, by way of an intermediate pin 55 of the receiver 5, activates a mechanical or hydraulic device 35 which in turn, along the path of application 36, exerts a clamping force on the support flange 51 against the retaining plate 32.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The simplified partial view, shown in Fig. 3, corresponding to the line II-II in Fig. 1 shows how the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 is secured in the receiver 5 on the structure by means of a U-shaped securing clamp 54. To this effect, anchorages 52, ~~which may be upright~~ are provided on the support flange 51[.], ~~which~~ ~~The~~ anchorages 52 comprise flush boreholes through which the two U-limbs of the securing clamp 54 ~~can~~ ~~may~~ be placed. Preferably, the diameter of the boreholes matches the limbs of the securing clamp 54 such that a clamping seat is achieved. However, it is also possible for the securing clamp 54 on the two ends of the U-limbs to also be secured against sliding from the anchorages 52. The spacing A between the U-limbs matches the diameter D of the base 66 of the insertion trunnion 6 such

that it is not possible to pull the insertion trunnion out when the securing clamp is in place. Thus, even if the cylindrical body 56 of the receiver 5 on the structure were to be destroyed, either as a result of mechanical failure or as a result of a fire, the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 would be firmly held to the structure by the securing clamp 54. In one example, [[The]] the securing clamp 54 and the anchorages 52 are preferably made from a metallic material, while the remaining components of the connection element are preferably made from a plastic material, wherein elastomers are particularly well suited. Instead of providing a U-shaped securing clamp 54, ~~the provision of individual securing pins may be utilized. is also possible. In one example, the U-shaped clamp is insertable into the upright anchorage such that a trunnion portion of the insertion pin is capable of being secured in a first recess.~~

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The oblique diagram, shown in Fig. 4, of the receiver 5 on the structure, with the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 snapped-in in position 1, as well as the partial section of the receiver 5 on the structure, shown in Fig. 5, both show the pin 65 acting on the base 66 of the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 on the corresponding pin 55 to generate a clamping force K. In the oblique diagram of according to Fig. 4, the insertion ~~trunnion pin~~ 6 is in position 1, i.e. in a position in which the support flange 51 in the flat recess 31 of the retainer 3 on the structure is still slidable in the XY-plane. Consequently, prior to attachment, the receiver 5 on the structure ~~can~~ may adapt to a desired position of the component 2 to be attached. Finally, the oblique diagram according to Fig. 4 shows boreholes 57, 58 for accommodating the limbs of the securing clamp 54.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] In this position, the connection element ~~can~~ may be displaced in the XY-plane to a limited extent in relation to the retainer 3 on the structure. In this arrangement, an indicator that has been provided, which ~~can~~ may be designed to operate mechanically, electrically or electronically, indicates to the installing personnel the necessary displacement of the component 2 to reach a position which in the second position, i.e. in the attachment position of the connecting element, ensures an absolutely precise-fitting connection to already existing

construction elements. In the same way, the indicator serves to indicate the spacing of the component 2 in the Z-direction from its final position. If this spacing differs from a specified value to achieve the desired final height in Z-direction in position 2, which is the attachment position[[],] on the retainer on the component, or on the anchorage part, the correct height ~~can~~ may be set by changing the spacing (screw thread 41) so that after snapping into position 2, the component 2 has attained the desired precise final position.